

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 9, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-6 have been amended for better form and conformance to U.S. practice, such as beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and deleting reference designations typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Claims 1-6 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants

gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 5-6 contains allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice, and independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 5. Further, claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 6 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, as claims 2-4 and 7-8 depend from independent claims 1 and 6, Applicants respectfully request that claims 2-4 and 7-8 also be allowed.


In addition, new independent claim 9 has been added that includes features similar to allowable claim 5 and thus should also be allowable. Further, as claims 10-13 depend from independent claim 9, Applicants respectfully request that claims 10-13 also be allowed.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to

submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: New Abstract

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